

Message Text

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41

ACTION PA-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 CU-04 EB-11 L-03 USIE-00

SS-15 INR-10 IO-13 NSC-10 COME-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /103 W
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O R 281657 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1387

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E. O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION

REF: STATE 123883

1. COMMISSIONER GENERAL WELLES HENDERSON, ACCOMPANIED BY NELSON, DINGWALL AND ECON/ COM MIN, MADE COURTESY CALL ON BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, YESTERDAY. SINCE THERE HAD STILL BEEN NO INDICATION OF GOF REACTION TO KING COLE PROPOSAL THAT GOF PARTICIPATE IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION ON REDUCED SCALE, DISCUSSION QUICKLY TURNED TO THIS QUESTION. BRUNET SAID HE REGRETTED TO SAY THAT HE HAD STILL NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN A REPORT FROM THE TECHNICIANS (WHICH WE INTERPRET TO MEAN THAT BETWEEN TRIPS TO BONN, LUXEMBOURG AND THE POMPIDOU- BREZHNEV MEETING AT RAMBOUILLET, HE HAS NOT HAD

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TIME TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE PROBLEM). BRUNET SAID THAT IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO HEAD THE INTER- AGENCY PROCESS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A GOF DECISION AND THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE PRINCIPALLY A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON THE FORTRESS OF THE FIN- ANCE MINISTRY. HE SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD BE GIVEN SOME NEW ARGUMENTS TO USE IN THIS BATTLE. HENDERSON, NELSON AND DINGWALL MADE AN EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION OF THE CASE FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH BRUNET' S CONCERN THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL THEME WAS MERELY WINDOW- DRESSING FOR WHAT WAS JUST A RUN- OF- THE- MILL FAIR.

2. BRUNET TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THESE ARGUMENTS. HE SAID HE HIMSELF WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT FRANCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE AND WOULD DO HIS BEST TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE GOF DECISION WOULD BE ENTHUSIASTIC. HENDERSON ASKED WHEN A FINAL DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. BRUNET SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE A DATE BUT THAT IF THE APPROPRIATION FOR PARTICIPATION WAS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 1974 BUDGET, THE DECISION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF JULY.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THIS CONVERSATION THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS WELL- DISPOSED TOWARD PARTICIPATION, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THIS QUESTION COULD BE RAISED WITH SOME URGENCY AND INSISTENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT WHILE HE IS IN THE U. S. EVEN IF HIS MINISTRY IS PERSUADED THAT FRANCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE, A HIGH LEVEL INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE USG ATTACHES TO FRENCH AND EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE MINISTRY IN ITS EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE OPPOSITION OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SINCE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WE BELIEVE THE GOF WILL MAKE ITS DECISION ESSENTIALLY ON POLITICAL GROUNDS.

DECLASSIFIED DECEMBER 31, 1974.
IRWIN

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